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PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society,	Butler Building,
State Journal,	San Francisco.
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Telephone Douglas 2537

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On pages 196a, 196b, 196c and 196d will be found the action of the State Society in the matter of Industrial Accident work.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE SANTA BARBARA MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the State Society, held last month at Santa Barbara, was a distinctly successful one and the attendance was rather larger than is usual for Santa Barbara meetings. The hotel people did everything possible to make it comfortable for the members and there was remarkably little kicking. The officers elected are: Dr. Harry M. Sherman, President; Dr. George A. Hare, of Fresno, First Vice-President; Dr. Rexwald Brown of Santa Barbara, Second Vice-President; Dr. René Bine, Dr. A. W. Hoisholt, Dr. Ewer and Dr. A. C. A. Jayet, of San Jose, were elected to the Council; Dr. Philip Mills Jones was re-elected Secretary. None of the reports, etc., could be obtained in advance for putting into type and so no attempt is made to publish the full transactions in this issue. The minutes will be printed separately as soon as possible and sent to county society secretaries as there are a number of things for the county units to consider. The plan presented by the Council for handling the insurance situation was adopted without the slightest change and together with the fee bill which was endorsed, will be found on pages 196a, 196b, 196c.

THE SAN FRANCISCO POLYCLINIC.

The Polyclinic recently celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its birth as an organization in the medical life of California, and some of the gentlemen connected with it made the suggestion to the Publication Committee that a special number of the JOURNAL be issued, the contents to be mostly articles contributed by those who either are now or have been in the past connected with the institution. It was intended that the April issue should be devoted to this matter, but press of work prevented getting the material in shape in time for that number, and so it appears this month. Some very distinguished men have been connected with the Polyclinic during its twenty-five years of existence, and while it has had its own vicissitudes and the sun of good fortune has not always shone upon it, still its life has been a good one and its progress steadily upward. There can be no doubt that there is ample room in San Francisco for a post-graduate teaching institution; there is also room for a similar institution in Los Angeles, and if the right men will work earnestly for the development of such an enterprise in the right direction, it can be very useful. We sincerely trust that the Polyclinic will continue its growth and development along the lines indicated, and that it will become a post-graduate institution that will be really used by our physicians in California for the inevitably necessary "brushing up."

IDEALS.

California is particularly happy in having within her gates educational institutions that march "*pari passu*" with the best; and in this day of high ideals as illustrated in the curricula of the world's schools, there can be no higher praise. The recent transformation of our medical schools into colleges of the two universities was a long step in the steady advance towards the newer goal of vocational training; and quite recently the San Francisco Polyclinic has added as capstone to this admirable structure a theatre for efficient post-graduate instruction.

It is a commonplace observation that the men who are to-day being graduated from our medical schools come forth far better equipped for the practice of their art than were those mustered into its ranks some years ago. This premised, is it not to be deplored that the average medical practitioner is not a man of general culture, as we would have all members of a learned profession be? The world and its work was never better worth preparing for than now, for in science especially a new renaissance is arriving; the mysteries of natural law and human potency are being rapidly unveiled. The knighthood of the "Quest of Life" enrolls in the order of psychic and mechanical investigation and presses on to new accomplishment. Though neither wins the "Grail," each wins nearer to its laws. By the delicate ministrations of aseptic surgery, life is prolonged. Immunization lifts ever higher her red cross. Strong incentives these for the young men of our day. But the scarcity of broad culture is the "rift in the lute."

Perhaps one of the chief reasons for this condi-

tion is the fact of a premature election of vocational education. The minds and the efforts of the student are too soon and too narrowly directed towards those branches of learning which make for the future vocation. In this manner broad culture is missed in the curriculum, and this is unfortunately true in respect of all the learned professions. In our universities the tremendous influx of students, the confusion, the rush and the haste to enjoy the economical advantages of a degree have contributed much to this result. In our schools there is not a proper demarcation between the fundamental cultural studies of the early years and those preparatory to professional training of the later years. Early in his educational life the youth has been unfitted for liberal culture because the methods have been too highly specialized. The student has not sufficiently enjoyed in the lower grades instruction in the humanities before entering upon the studies preparatory to the vocation of life. A fundamental and sympathetic acquaintance with the humanities is as integral a part of a liberal education as a fundamental and sympathetic acquaintance with the sciences. In preparation for medicine the culture of science is of course nowadays not neglected, but the cultivation of the humanities too frequently is. In either case the education that should precede vocation is lacking, and the pursuit of the vocation becomes arid and material. "Quick returns" is the shibboleth; the riches and uplift of the humanities is bartered for a mess of pottage.

Education is to enjoy the best and know the best, as well as to produce the best. The degree of a learned profession should be something better than a meal check. It has been said with some truth that the allurements of Mammon are too often permitted to call our ingenuous youth from the proper business of school and college. Short roads tempt them to abandon the broad work of education and to go prematurely to schools of professional and technical instruction. The consequence is, the sending forth of half-educated men to plead the causes, to heal the diseases and to lead the thinking of this generation.

J. DENNIS ARNOLD.

THE FEE SCHEDULE.

In looking over and thinking about the fee schedule agreed upon and recommended by the Council of the State Society, there are a number of points to be taken into consideration:

- It is not a schedule of flat fees for all cases.
- It is a list of minimum fees appropriate for workmen earning not over \$1,000 a year.
- It does not cover everything; special cases need special consideration.
- It is not put out as a contract of flat fees for which physicians must treat everybody injured.
- The total amount received by our members per year will be very much more than what they get now.

Any member of the Society may be called in, if he wishes to do the work.

Any member has a chance to keep his patient and treat the injured one, if he wishes to do so, other things being equal.

It is especially understood and provided that unusual work shall receive adequate compensation.

It is essential that all bills be itemized and not "padded." Dressings used should be entered on the bill and a reasonable charge made for them.

All contracts to furnish medical services at wholesale are abolished.

CONSIDER SOME ACTUAL CASES.

In studying this matter, the accounts of a surgeon who does quite a little of this sort of work for people of moderate means were kindly submitted for examination. Consider these actual cases:

A workman had a compound fracture of both bones of the leg. The family wished to pay the doctor in advance. The highest fee he could ask in the circumstances was \$60, which was paid. He treated the patient for six or seven weeks in the hospital and finally did a bone-plating; the man will probably have to be operated upon again. The doctor has treated the patient for nearly three months, has operated twice and will have to do so again—and all for \$60! Under the law and the fee schedule as recommended, this same surgeon would have received over \$300 for the work already done.

Again: A workman suffered a bad fracture of the femur. A bill for \$50 was sent in. After two years the surgeon has received two payments on account amounting to \$15, and he has not pressed the patient because the man actually has not the money to pay the bill without taking food from his wife and children. Under the law and the fee schedule, the surgeon would have received from \$150 to \$200 for this case and got his money at once.

Which is the better for the physician?

ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

A member of the committee that formulated the fee schedule met a friend who does considerable surgery and in looking over the figures the surgeon scoffed at \$30.00 for a herniotomy. "Well," said the other gentleman, "what would you charge a man whose income is but \$1,000.00 a year, for such an operation?" The surgeon, after a moment's thought, said: "Why, I think